(c) No, Sir, After nationalisation of the coal mines, concerted efforts have been made through implementation of various schemes for dealing with major fires in Jharia Coalfield. As a result of these efforts, five fires have been successfully extinguished and work of dealing with remaining fires is in progress.

Review of Functioning of Public Distribution System

3606. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a review of the functioning of the Public Distribution System during the last three years was undertaken and whether any deficiencies in the system have been noticed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to strengthen the Public Distribution System and plug the loopholes in its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). An advisory Council on Public Distribution System is functioning, comprising all the State Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies, senior officials of the concerned departments/Ministries of the Central and State Governments and nominated Members of Parliament, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, who is also the Minister for Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. The meeting of the Council is held regularly, atleast once in a year. The last meeting of the Council (13th) was held on 23rd/24th August, 1991. This Council undertakes review of the functioning of the PDS in the States and UTs and considers proposals for improvement in the PDS in its meetings. The strengthening and streamlining of the PDS is a continual process and the Central and State Governments regularly monitor the functioning of the system and necessary remedial measures, are initiated. The State Governments and UT Administrations have been requested to take stern measures against hoarders, black-marketeers and other anti-social elements to curb unfair trade practices and diversion of PDS commodities. Besides, they have been requested to set up, at various levels, Vigilance Committees comprising consumers particularly, representatives of Women, Voluntary and Consumer Organisations.

Performance of Core Sector

3607. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether performance of core sector industries has been unsatisfactory in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to improve the performance of core sector industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b): A statement giving the production data of the core sector industries for the period April-January, 1991-92 as compared to the level in the corresponding period of last year is enclosed. It shows that production in most of these sectors have shown a significant rise during April-January, 1991-92 compared to April-January, 1990-91.

The Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister has been constituted, inter-alia, to consider problems of infrastructure and give appropriate directions to bring about improvement in performance.